



ADELPHI NY STATEWIDE BREAST CANCER HOTLINE & SUPPORT PROGRAM
Adelphi University, School of Social Work, 1 South Ave., PO Box 701, Garden City, NY 11530
OFFICE: 516.877.4320 ● **HOTLINE:** 800.877.8077 ● breast-cancer.adelphi.edu

**Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Health
New York State FY2026 Executive Budget Proposal
February 11, 2025**

Submitted by:

Reyna Machado, MA, MBA,
Executive Director, Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program

Adelphi University has a longstanding record of responding to needs in the community, with roots going back to its founding in 1863. In 1980, the first post-mastectomy group began at Adelphi's School of Social Work. The women in the support group, all of whom felt extremely isolated when they were diagnosed, found comfort in sharing their fears, questions and experiences among others who were experiencing the same feelings

This group decided to share their positive experience by reaching out to other women facing breast cancer. At a time in history when breast cancer was not even discussed publicly these group members, along with staff, faculty, and interns at Adelphi, developed the "Woman-to-Woman Hotline." By 1990, thanks to funding provided by New York State, which continued until recent years, the program expanded to the Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline. Today, we have professional social work services as well as trained volunteers who staff the hotline and website, and provide free counseling, education, and patient advocacy programs to all New Yorkers. Unfortunately, as we continue to provide these critical services, our state funding has decreased.

For 45 years, the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program has provided community outreach, licensed social work services (in English and Spanish) including individual and group counseling, educational forums, health referrals including free or low-cost mammography screening in partnership with the New York State Cancer Services Program, and hope to thousands of New Yorkers diagnosed with breast cancer. All our services are free and confidential.

This program's impact is undeniable. In 2024, the Adelphi Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline reached more than 20,000 New Yorkers with assistance. We attended over 90 community breast cancer awareness events reaching more than 6,000 attendees with culturally competent, linguistically appropriate services to the community. We educated over 700 breast cancer survivors, healthcare professionals and medically underserved women via breast cancer health workshops, provided 100 early detection mammography referrals, supported more than 1,000 patients via licensed counseling, and assisted over 500 patients with survivorship programs. With the support of other grants, the program also provided 160 meals and emergency transportation to 140 medically underserved breast cancer patients.

Governor Hochul's FY2026 Executive Budget proposal (Aid to Localities budget) did not include new funding for the Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and this will be devastating to its continued operation and success in serving those inflicted with breast cancer and their families, which include, women diagnosed at earlier ages and often with advanced disease.

New York State funding accounts for twenty-five percent of the program budget and is critical to The Breast Cancer Hotline's ability to remain in operation. New York State began funding the Breast Cancer Hotline in 1990 at a level of \$283,300 and this continued on an annual basis until 2017. In 2017, the program entered into a five-year appropriation (through 2022) through the Department of Health (DOH) via the New York State Grants Gateway for \$283,300 per year (contract C32977GG). Despite Department of Health contract, the state failed

to appropriate the \$283,300 via the FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023. Furthermore, that funding was not restored during budget negotiations.

In FY2024, we again did not receive the \$283,300 from DOH in the Executive Budget, but the Senate restored \$175,000, as well as \$30,000 in local grant funding in the Aid to Localities budget.

In addition to losing the majority of our state funding in 2020 and receiving partial funding in recent years, COVID-19 also took its toll on charitable organizations and the program lost 40% of its other revenues overall, including grants from the Susan G. Komen organization, LI2 Day Walk and the Beth C. Tortolani Foundation which ceased operations.

To help offset these funding losses, we have submitted numerous grant applications, implemented cost-savings strategies, and organized fundraising efforts. We also have a full-time social work position that, due to a reduction in funding, has been vacant since September 2020. Adelphi University, which was also financially impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, has also waived the indirect costs for the program. While we have support from our Advisory Board, and community partners, our program's needs exceed these resources.

We are at a critical point in the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program's history. Now, more than ever, our program has an essential role to play in providing licensed social work services for the breast cancer community. To sustain our programs, we need New York State funding to underwrite these complimentary services.

New York has always had a mission to provide and support healthcare for all; we ask, on behalf of the Breast Cancer Hotline family and the statewide constituency that we serve, that the New York State continue to support this vital community program with an appropriation of \$283,300 in the FY2026 state budget.

We thank you for your consideration of the inclusion of this critical funding for Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program in the one-house budget proposals for \$283,300 for FY2026, and if possible, an additional \$100,000 in the Aid to Localities budget.

This year, the program has plans to focus on strategic planning, continue to promote the breast cancer hotline include our new texting service, continue to provide licensed social work services, host educational forums, and refer women for free or low-cost mammography screening. Finally, we have several marketing initiatives including a new video series and a website redesign. In recent years, funding from New York State has decreased and yet the needs of New Yorkers and mental health needs have increased.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Reyna Machado at rmachado@adelphi.edu or 516-877-4335.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.